ART BY ICHIHA AKIZUKI
WRITTEN BY MAI MOCHIZUKI
CHARACTER DESIGNS BY
SHIZU YAMAUCHI

CHAPTER 20:
CONCEALED FEELINGS

FLUFF

Early Novem-ber...

The leaves of Kyoto turn a multitude of beautiful hues before falling.

The chill of the wind tells us that winter is just around the bend.

HAHH...

TICK

TOCK

And things have been pretty normal here at Kura.

We haven't heard from Ensho since...

It's been a few weeks since the incident at Genko-an Temple.

IT'S...

...ALMOST AS IF NOTHING HAPPEN-ED.

CLASP

WHUFF

WHUFF

WHUFF

WHUFF

I WONDER WHAT HOLMES-SAN WAS GOING TO SAY.

Hmm...

HE'S BEEN ACTING PERFECTLY NORMAL TOO.

MAYBE I'M OVER-THINKING THINGS.

Oh!

SURE!

AOI-SAN.

WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED DUSTING OVER THERE, COULD YOU LEND ME A HAND?

R-RING

STARE

WELCO...

CREEEAK

GLOOM

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?!

TOTTER

TOTTER

M-MANAGER?!

THEY REJECTED IT... I HAVE TO START ALL OVER FROM SCRATCH...

MY MANU-SCRIPT...

THE VERY ONE.

THEY'RE PUSHING HARD FOR ROMANCE THESE DAYS.

DO YOU HAPPEN TO MEAN THE PERIOD ROMANCE THEY COMMISSIONED?

THAT'S TRUE. I'VE SEEN THOSE IN BOOKSTORES.

YOSHITSUNE AND SHIZUKA GOZEN, AND *THE TALES OF ISE* ARE ALL THE RAGE.

RE-IMAGININGS OF THINGS LIKE PRINCESS KAZU,

It's kind of expected, but...

NOBUNAGA AND NOHIME.

SO, WHAT WERE YOU WRITING ABOUT, DAD?

YOU RIPPED OFF A BEST-SELLER.

THAT'S WHY I NEED TO TURN AROUND A NEW NOVEL QUICKLY.

ISN'T THAT THE COUPLE...

...FROM THAT NEW BOOK EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT, *THE WIVES OF NOBUNAGA*?

AH.

I SEE.

IN OTHER WORDS...

I just loved that!

W-WELL... WHAT ABOUT SOMETHING BASED ON THAT SHORT STORY YOU WROTE?

THE ONE ABOUT THE TRAGIC LOVE BETWEEN LADY FUJITSUBO AND GENJI FROM *THE TALE OF GENJI*.

I KNOW I'M NO PROFESSIONAL, BUT I'D LOVE TO READ AN EXPANDED VERSION.

YOU'RE VERY KIND, AOI-SAN.

THE TROUBLE IS... PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN EVERYTHING THERE IS TO WRITE...

...ABOUT EVERY DRAMATIC EVENT IN HISTORY.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY, MY PUBLISHER IS ALREADY SET TO RELEASE ANOTHER STORY ABOUT *THE TALE OF GENJI* FROM A DIFFERENT AUTHOR.

SO I CAN'T DO THAT.

OH...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

ALAS, NOTHING AT ALL IS COMING TO ME.

THERE'S JUST NOTHING LEFT TO WRITE ABOUT.

IT'S NOT EASY TO COME UP WITH NEW TAKES ON THINGS IN AN ENVIRONMENT LIKE THIS.

FAILURE

FAILURE

FAILURE

FAILURE

FAILURE

MY LIFE AS A WRITER IS OVER...

MY MUSE HAS ABANDONED ME...

"THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN SAY RIGHT NOW."

B-BUT MANAGER ...!

CLAP

HMM

HERE, DAD.

WHEN YOU HIT A WALL, THE BEST THING TO DO IS TAKE IN SOME ART.

WHY DON'T YOU PAY A VISIT TO THE TEMPLES OF KAMA-KURA?

I'M SURE INSPIRATION WILL STRIKE YOU.

AND IF TIME ALLOWS...

KAMA-KURA?

I THINK I'LL BE GOING, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

I leave the shop in your hands, Aoi-san.

OH, O-OKAY. SEE YOU LATER.

BONNNG

OH, LOOK AT THE TIME.

...

I WONDER WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT...

THE SACRED KANNON?

THE SACRED KANNON, YES.

ISN'T THAT... KANNON?

YOU'RE SO KNOWL-EDGEABLE, MANAGER.

OH, HARDLY...

YOU RECALL THE BODHISATTVA KANNON HAS A THOUSAND-ARMED FORM TOO, DON'T YOU?

WE REFER TO THE SINGLE-FACED, TWO-ARMED FORM AS "THE SACRED KANNON" TO DISTINGUISH THEM.

BUT WHY DID HOLMES-SAN HAND YOU A SCROLL OF THE SACRED KANNON?

WELL, KNOWING HIM...

HMM...

HE PROBABLY DID HAVE A REASON.

SO TRUE!

HE BROUGHT UP KAMAKURA, TOO.

IS THERE SOME CONNEC-TION BETWEEN KAMAKURA AND THE SACRED KANNON?

OH, THERE ARE EVEN MORE THAN THAT. IT'S HARD TO NARROW IT DOWN TO A SINGLE PLACE...

What?

YOU MEAN THERE ARE 33 SHRINES AND TEMPLES DEDICATED TO KANNON?

WHEN I THINK OF KAMAKURA AND KANNON...

THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND IS KANNON'S 33 SACRED SITES.

HRMMM...

...

THOSE TWO HINTS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO FIGURE IT OUT.

IF HOLMES-SAN IS TRYING TO TELL HIM SOMETHING...

THE LAST TIME I VISITED, A FRIEND OF MINE SHOWED ME AROUND THE RUINS OF TAIHEI-JI TEMPLE.

YES, QUITE A FEW TIMES.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO KAMAKURA, MANAGER?

TAIHEI-JI IS ONE OF KAMAKURA'S "FIVE NUN MOUN-TAINS."

IT WAS ABANDONED AND NOW ONLY THE STONE MONUMENT REMAINS.

TAIHEI-JI TEMPLE? IS THAT ONE FAMOUS?

BUT IT IS FAMOUS FOR A PARTICULAR INCIDENT.

*ACCOUNTS VARY

WHEN THEY DID, THEY RAIDED TAIHEI-JI.

AND IN THE YEAR 1553,* SATOMI YOSHIHIRO ATTACKED KAMAKURA, WHICH WAS UNDER HOJO CONTROL.

THE SATOMI AND HOJO CLANS WERE ON OPPOSING SIDES,

DURING THE WARRING STATES PERIOD, THERE WAS A WARLORD NAMED SATOMI YOSHIHIRO WHO CONTROLLED THE BOSO REGION.

SATOMI STOLE THE TEMPLE'S SACRED KANNON...

...ALONG WITH A NUN NAMED SHOGAKUNI.

HE STOLE THEIR KANNON AND A NUN?!

IT DOES SOUND RATHER TERRIBLE, DOESN'T IT?

REALLY?!

BUT THEN...

SHE AND SATOMI YOSHIHIRO WERE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.

...WAS THE DALIGHTER OF ASHIKAGA YOSHIAKI, WHO HAD FORGED AN ALLIANCE WITH SATOMI YOSHIHIRO'S FATHER, YOSHITAKA.

BUT THE TRUTH WAS THAT SHOGA-KUNI...

ASHIKAGA YOSHIAKI 足利義明

ALLIANCE 同盟関係

SATOMI YOSHITAKA 里見義堯

CHILDHOOD FRIENDS 幼馴染

SHOGAKUNI 青岳尼

YOSHIHIRO 義弘

YES.

SATOMI YOSHIHIRO AND SHOGAKUNI SECRETLY CARED FOR ONE ANOTHER.

SATOMI YOSHIHIRO USED THE ATTACK ON KAMAKURA TO STEAL HER AWAY ALONG WITH THE SACRED KANNON.

AND SO, IN ORDER TO BE WITH THE WOMAN HE LOVED,

OR SO THE STORY GOES.

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT INSPIRED SHOGAKUNI TO BECOME A NUN,

BUT SHE LIVED IN A TIME IT WAS HARD FOR WOMEN TO FOLLOW THEIR OWN PATH IN LIFE.

THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME REASON FOR IT.

OF COURSE, WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ABOUT THEIR FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER.

BUT IT'S HISTORICAL FACT THAT SATOMI LATER MARRIED SHOGAKUNI.

SATOMI YOSHIHIRO DIDN'T GIVE UP. HE KEPT HER IN HIS HEART...

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY WERE SEPARATED FOR VARIOUS REASONS...

AND EVENTUALLY TOOK HER BY FORCE...

...AFTER REALIZING THE YEARNING HE'D BEEN HOLDING ON TO FOR SO LONG.

IS THAT STORY FAMOUS?

I'VE NEVER HEARD IT BEFORE.

THAT'S SO DRAMATIC!

I IMAGINE MOST PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW I—

GASP

IT'S NOT A PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY ONE.

THAT BOY OF MINE NEVER CHANGES, DOES HE?

YES, I SEE...

WRITING ABOUT THEM... JUST MIGHT WORK.

HEH

HE DOESN'T.

BUT IT WOULDN'T HURT FOR HIM TO BE MORE DIRECT.

NO...

THE WAY KIYOTAKA DOES THINGS LETS ME SAVE FACE AS A WRITER.

HE NEVER OPENLY GIVES ME ADVICE.

PERHAPS BECAUSE WE'RE SO CLOSE, HE'S TRYING TO BE CONSIDERATE OF ME.

I see.

YES, THAT'S JUST LIKE HOLMES-SAN.

HE ALWAYS DOES THINGS IN STYLE.

HE'S MUCH MORE AWKWARD WHEN IT COMES TO HIS OWN PROBLEMS.

HE CAN GET QUITE FRUSTRATED AT TIMES AS WELL...

?

OH, NEVER MIND.

SKIRTCH SKIRTCH SKIRTCH SKIRTCH

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND, SO I'D BETTER DO SOME RESEARCH.

I'LL MAKE A READING LIST, AND THEN...

OKAY, I'LL MAKE SOME COFFEE.

ROMANCE, HUH?

HE'S LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON NOW.

I'M SURE HE'LL WRITE A WONDERFUL PERIOD ROMANCE.

WHY DID I THINK OF HOLMES-SAN JUST NOW?!

WAIT!

CHAPTER 20
END